

Amendments to the Claims:


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel Claims 63-74, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

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Claims 1-27 – (canceled)

28. (original) A method of making reclosable packages, said method comprising the steps of:



feeding a supply of package film in a package forming direction;

folding said package film about a bottom crease to form opposing package walls, said opposing package walls advancing in said package forming direction;

feeding a supply of interlocked reclosable zipper between said opposing package walls;

sealing one-half of said reclosable zipper to a first of said package walls;

providing a supply of sliders, each of said sliders being insertable on to said reclosable zipper and adapted to open and close said zipper as said slider is moved along said zipper in opening and closing directions, respectively;

removing sliders from said slider supply and inserting sliders on to said reclosable zipper;

cross-sealing said folded film at package-width intervals to form a chain of packages, each of said packages having a reclosable zipper and a slider;

filling each of said packages; and

sealing the unsealed half of the reclosable zipper of each of said packages to the other package wall.

29. (original) The method according to claim 28 including the step of bending the reclosable zipper of each of said packages toward the package wall to which it is sealed prior to filling said package.

30. (original) The method according to claim 28 wherein during the sealing of said one-half of said reclosable zipper to said first package wall said reclosable zipper is insulated from the other package wall.

31. (original) The method according to claim 28 wherein during sealing of said one-half of said reclosable zipper to said first package wall said one-half of said reclosable zipper is at least partially insulated from the other half of said reclosable zipper.

32. (original) The method according to claim 28 including the step of cross-sealing the ends of the reclosable zipper of each package.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 32 wherein zipper cross-seals formed by said step of cross-sealing the ends of the reclosable zipper extend into package cross-seals formed by said step of cross-sealing said folded film.

34. (previously presented) A method of manufacturing recloseable packages, said method comprising:

providing a first wall panel opposing a second wall panel;

positioning a zipper between said first and second wall panels, said zipper including a first track with a first profile and a second track with a second profile, said first and second profiles being releasably engageable to each other, and a slider slidably mounted to said zipper for movement between a closed position and an open position, said first and second profiles being engaged to each other while said slider is in said closed position, said first and second profiles being disengaged from each other in response to movement of said slider from said closed position to said open position;

adhering said first profile of said zipper to said first wall panel;

forming first and second spaced side seals in said first and second wall panels to define first and second sidewalls of said package;

adhering said second profile of said zipper to said second wall panel; and

cutting said side seals to separate adjacent packages.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 further including a step of feeding a zipper arrangement between said first and second wall panels before positioning said zipper, said zipper arrangement comprising a plurality of said zippers connected in line with each other.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said zipper is positioned and said first profile of said zipper is adhered to said first wall panel before providing said first and second wall panels.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 further including a step of filling said package with a product.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said first and second wall panels are provided by folding a web of material.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said zipper is positioned at a mouth of said first and second wall panels.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 39 further including a step of filling said package with a product before adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said zipper is positioned below and adjacent a mouth of said first and second wall panels.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 41 further including a step of filling said package with a product before adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said zipper is positioned at a bottom of said first and second wall panels.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 further including a step of filling said package with a product after adhering said first profile to said first wall panel and after adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein said side seals are cut after filling said package with said product.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said zipper has a tamper resistant element.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 further including a step of mounting said slider onto said zipper.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein said slider is mounted onto said zipper after said first profile of said zipper is adhered to said first wall panel.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein said slider is mounted onto said zipper after said first profile of said zipper is adhered to said first wall panel and said second profile is adhered to said second wall panel.

50. (previously presented) A method of placing a product in recloseable packages, said method comprising:

providing a first wall panel opposing a second wall panel;

positioning a zipper at a predetermined orientation, said zipper including a first track with a first profile and a second track with a second profile, said first and second profiles being releasably engageable to each other;

mounting a slider onto said zipper, said slider slidably mounted to said zipper for movement between a closed position and an open position, said first and second profiles being engaged to each other while said slider is in said closed position, said first and second profiles being disengaged from each other in response to movement of said slider from said closed position to said open position;

adhering said first profile of said zipper to said first wall panel;

forming first and second spaced side seals in said first and second wall panels to define first and second sidewalls of said package;

filling said package with a product; and

adhering said second profile of said zipper to said second wall panel.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 50 further including a step of feeding a zipper arrangement between said first and second wall panels before positioning said zipper, said zipper arrangement comprising a plurality of said zippers connected in line with each other.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 51 wherein said zipper arrangement includes a plurality of sliders slidably mounted to said zipper.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein said zipper is positioned and said first profile of said zipper is adhered to said first wall panel before providing said first and second wall panels.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 50 further including a step of cutting said side seals to separate adjacent packages.

55. (previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein said first and second wall panels are provided by folding a web of material.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein said zipper is positioned at a mouth of said first and second wall panels.

57. (previously presented) The method of claim 56 wherein said package is filled with a product before adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

58. (previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein said zipper is positioned below and adjacent a mouth of said first and second wall panels.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 58 wherein said package is filled with a product before adhering said second profile to said second wall panel.

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein said zipper has a tamper resistant element.

61. (previously presented) A method of manufacturing reclosable bags, said method comprising:

providing a plurality of fastener segments connected to each other, each of said fastener segments including first and second interlockable profiles, said first profile including a rib, said second profile including a groove for receiving said rib;

mounting a slider to each of said fastener segments, said slider being adapted to open and close its respective fastener segment;

providing a continuous web of plastic packaging material;

after mounting said slider to each of said fastener segments, successively attaching said slider-carrying fastener segments to said continuous web;

forming said continuous web into the reclosable bags; and

filling the reclosable bags with a product.

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein said step of forming said continuous web into the reclosable bags includes folding said continuous web to form opposing walls of said reclosable bags and sealing said folded web to provide the reclosable bags with respective distinct interior compartments for receiving the product.

Claims 63-74 – (canceled)